
**SFG 2023 | LEVEL 1 | Test #36 – Solutions | **

Q.1) How do you distinguish between Kuchipudi and Bharatnatyam dances?

1. Dancers occasionally speaking dialogues is found in Kuchipudi dance but not in Bharatnatyam.
2. Dancing on the brass plate by keeping the feet on its edges is a feature of Bharatnatyam but Kuchipudi dance does not have such a form of movements.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. Kuchipudi is unique among the Indian classical dance styles. It uses fast rhythmic footwork and sculptural body movements. Stylised mime, using hand gestures and subtle facial expression, is combined with more realistic acting, **occasionally including dialogues spoken by the dancers.**

Bharatanatyam is one of the oldest forms of classical dance that originated in Tamil Nadu. Bharatnatyam dance is known to be ekaharya, where one dancer takes on many roles in a single performance. In this dance, dancers do not speak dialogues.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The "Tarangam" is a unique feature of Kuchipudi. In this, a dancer dances on the edge of a brass plate, matching to the rhythm of music. Sometimes, dancers also balance a pot of water on the head. Tarangam is not a feature of Bharatanatyam.

Source: UPSC 2012

Q.2) In the context of classical musical traditions of India, which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the distinction between Hindustani and Carnatic music?

1. Unlike Hindustani music, the Gharana system is generally absent in Carnatic music.
2. Khyal is a sub style of Hindustani music whereas Tarana is a sub style of Carnatic music.
3. Hindustani music uses flute and violin, but its usage is absent in Carnatic music.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) 2 and 3 only

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

There are two major traditions of Indian classical music. They are Carnatic music, a style associated with South India, and Hindustani music, a style associated with North India.

Statement 1 is correct: Hindustani Classical Music training and learning has its roots in the teacher-student parampara or guru-shishya tradition. A gharana comes into being when a consistent style and method of music singing or playing musical instruments is passed on from one generation to another over 3 or more generations. While some gharanas are formed directly by the father – son, others may be formulated when a teacher passes on his or her training & style of music to a valuable and talented student.

List of Hindustani Classical Music Gharanas, India:

Etawa Gharana, Jaipur Gharana, Banaras Gharana, Gwalior Gharana, Delhi Gharana, Indore Gharana, Patiala Gharana, Agra Gharana, Kirana Gharana, Rampur Sahaswan Gharana, Bhendi Bazar Gharana, Mewati Gharana, Dhrupad Gharana etc.

On the other hand, Carnatic Music created by Purandardasa has a fixed structure, and it doesn't give such flexibility as you can see in the Hindustani music, so there are no innovations are there and they seldom allowed & thus did not lead to creation of specific gharanas.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Both Khyal and Tarana are sub-styles of Hindustani music. Khyal is usually the short songs ranging from two to eight lines and its origin was attributed to Amir Khusrau. In Tarana style the rhythm plays a very crucial role and it consists mainly of melody, usually short, repeated many times, with variation and elaboration at the performer's discretion.

Statement 3 is incorrect: One of the similarities between Hindustani and Classical music is that they **both use Flute and Violin.** Other Major Instruments used in Hindustani music are Tabla, Sarangi, Sitar and Santoor whereas Veena, Mridangam and Mandolin were used in Carnatic music.

Source: Nitin Singhania- Chapter 5 Indian Music

Q.3) With reference to practice of 'Buta Kola', consider the following statements:

1. It is a ritual dance performance in which local spirits or deities are worshipped.
2. It is performed by both men and women.
3. It is generally performed in paddy fields after the winter crops have been harvested.
4. Some of the Buta Kola rituals involve walking on a bed of hot coal.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- c) 1 and 4 only
- d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Ans) c

Exp) Answer c is the correct answer.

Buta kola is a very popular art practised in Tulu Nādu region of Karnataka. The face is painted, wrapped in a Siri made of coconut feathers, and danced invoking the deity. The Divine Dancer gives justice to human beings and resolves disputes through the Word of God.

Statement 1 is correct: Bhootaradhana or Deity/spirit worship is very popular in Tulunadu region of coastal Karnataka. A ritual called nema or kola or Bhootakola is performed for ghosts/spirits/gods. Conducting Bhootakola/kola/nema has its own rules. The face is painted, wrapped in a Siri made of coconut feathers, and danced invoking the deity. The Divine Dancer gives justice to human beings and resolves disputes through the Word of God. Deity worship is the fundamental religious belief of the Tulu race.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Buta Kola is not performed by women. It is performed by male who is feared and respected in the community and is believed to give answers to people's problems on behalf of the god.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Yakshagana involves dancing to the beat of drums in open space usually in the village paddy fields after the winter crop has been harvested. On the other hand, Buta kola is not performed specifically in paddy fields nor after winter harvest.

Statement 4 is correct: Some of the Bhootada Kola rituals involve walking on a bed of hot coal. Drums and music give company to the dancing and pooja rituals. By praying together during Bhootada Kola, the community seeks God's blessing, prosperity and riddance of various problems of the community.

Source: <https://karnatakaturism.org/destinations/bhootha-aradhane/>
<https://karnatakaturism.org/destinations/yakshagana/>

Q.4) Which of the following correctly describes the Katakamukha Hasta Mudra?

- a) A hand gesture denoting great levels of fear.
- b) A hand gesture denoting the crescent moon in Lord Shiva's hair.

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- c) A hand gesture denoting firmness.
 d) A hand gesture symbolising the symbol “Om”.

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Hastas / Mudras (hand gestures) are primarily classified as 28 Asamyuta Hastas (one-hand gesture) and 24 Samyuta Hastas (two-hand gestures). Each of the hastas can be used to denote various thoughts, ideas and objects. There are various slokas (verses) from the ancient texts that enumerate the usage of the hastas. These are called Viniyoga Slokas. Apart from the suggested viniyogas, the dancer may innovate, if found necessary, to convey the appropriate message to the audience.

Option a is incorrect: An Asamyuta Hasta Mudra (hand gesture) **denoting great levels of fear** is the **Sandansh mudra** (not the Katakamukha Mudra). **Hence this option is incorrect.**

This mudra is made with one hand by keeping all the fingers spread slightly whilst remaining inwards and then repeatedly opening and shutting the fingers. Apart from great fear, this mudra is also used to denote sacrifice, wound, etc.



Option b is incorrect: An Asamyuta Hasta Mudra denoting the **crescent in Lord Shiva's hair** is known as **Chandrakala Mudra** (not the Katakamukha Mudra). **Hence this option is incorrect.**

In this mudra, the thumb and the index finger are separated and outstretched from the rest of the fingers which are folded together towards the palm.



Option c is incorrect: An Asamyuta Hasta Mudra **denoting firmness** is known as the **Mushti Mudra** (not the Katakamukha Mudra). Hence this option is incorrect.

In this Mudra, all four fingers are joined to form a fist and the thumb is placed on top. It also denotes steadiness, courage, and grasping of objects.



Option d is correct: Mudra **denoting the symbol “Om”** is the **Katakamukha Hasta Mudra**. This Mudra is made by joining the index and middle finger with the thumb with the ring and the small fingers separated and outstretched. It also denotes plucking flowers, making of garlands, necklace, etc.



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Source: Indian Art & Culture, 5th edition, Ch-6, Pg-6.5;

<https://www.kathakclub.com/hasta-mudra-asamyukta-mudra-kathak-dance-mudras-classical-mudras-meaning-name-gesture-single-hand>

<https://www.naatyaanjali.com/asamyuta-hastas>

Q.5) With reference to the SVAMITVA scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Rural Development and State Revenue Departments.
2. It's main aim is to provide pucca houses to all eligible families.
3. It is fully financed by the Central Government.
4. It is being implemented in the aspirational districts exclusively.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- d) 3 and 4 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

SVAMITVA (Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas) scheme is a new initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. It aims to provide rural people with the right to document their residential properties so that they can use their property for economic purposes.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The SVAMITVA scheme is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the state Revenue Departments, Survey of India and the state Panchayati Raj Departments. The Ministry of Rural Development is not involved in this scheme. **Hence this statement is incorrect.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: The main aim of the SVAMITVA scheme is to provide clear proof of ownership of property and land record cards to the owners of lands as well as all house owners in rural inhabited areas. The government scheme focussed on providing pucca houses to all rural families is PM Awas Yojana (Grameen), not the SVAMITVA yojana. **Hence this statement is incorrect.**

Statement 3 is correct: The SVAMITVA scheme is a Central Sector scheme. This means that all the expenses incurred in the implementation of this scheme are borne exclusively, 100% by the Central government. **Hence this statement is correct.**

Remember that any scheme specified as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme generally has a component which is financed by the state government of respective states.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The SVAMITVA scheme is being implemented in all the 600+ districts, throughout the country, not exclusively in the Aspirational districts. **Hence this statement is incorrect.**

The scheme will cover about 6.62 lakh villages in the country.

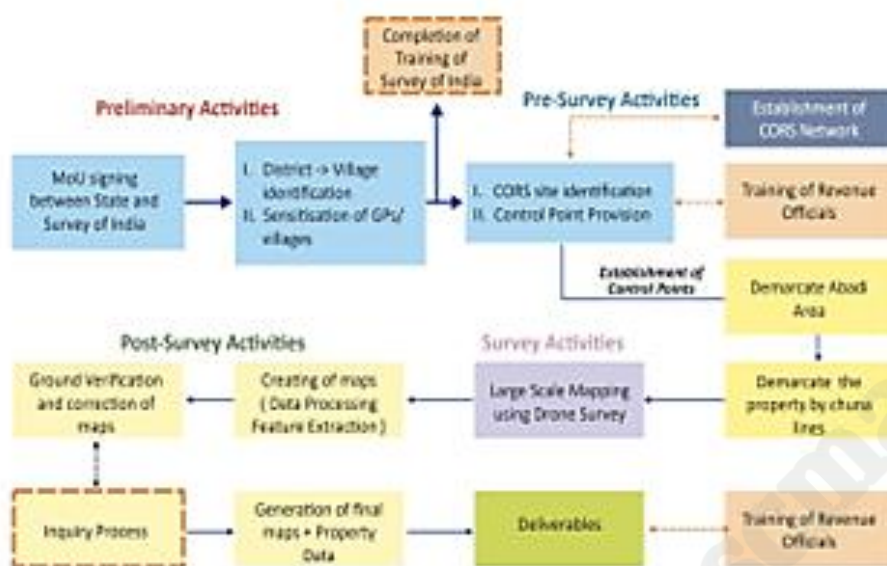
Knowledge Base:

- 1) The survey of land parcels will be done using Drone technology.
- 2) Some other subsidiary goals of the scheme:
 - a. To bring financial stability to the citizens in rural India by enabling them to use their property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits.
 - b. Creation of accurate land records for rural planning.
 - c. Determination of property tax, which would accrue to the GPs directly in States where it is devolved or else, add to the State exchequer.
 - d. Creation of survey infrastructure and GIS maps that can be leveraged by any department for their use.
 - e. To support in preparation of better-quality Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) by making use of GIS maps.

f. To reduce property related disputes and legal cases



Various Stages in SVAMITVA Scheme & its Glimpses



Source: https://svamitva.nic.in/svamitva/about.html?OWASP_CSRFTOKEN=OWQS-C3NM-OXLD-G0KQ-3OB3-HAJI-DDPU-9KJL#:~:text=collaborative%20efforts

<https://vikaspedia.in/social-welfare/rural-poverty-alleviation-1/svamitva-scheme>

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-is-svamitva-property-card-rural-households-6789007/>

Q.6) “It is one of the classical dances of India from the South Indian region. It was patronised by the Vijayanagar and Golconda rulers. It was mostly performed in the village temples by groups of travelling actors. The dance recitals are often based on stories from Bhagavata Purana. Some elements of this dance form are the Tarangam and the Jal Chitra Nrityam.”

Which of the following options best matches the description given above?

- Mohiniattam
- Sattriya
- Odissi
- Kuchipudi

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Option a is incorrect: Mohiniattam is a classical dance of Kerala and was patronised by the ruling dynasty of erstwhile kingdom of Travancore, not Vijayanagar or Golconda. The Lasya aspect of the dance is dominant and hence it is performed mainly by female performers not male performers. Hence this option is **not correct**.

Option b is incorrect: Sattriya is a classical dance form from the state of Assam in the north east and not South India. Hence this option is **not correct**.

Option c is incorrect: Odissi is a classical dance from the state of Odisha. It was patronised by Jain king Kharavela, not the Vijayanagara rulers. Hence this option is **not correct**.

Option d is correct: Kuchipudi is a south Indian classical dance form that emerged in the Andhra region (in the Kuchipudi village in Krishna district), where it was first **patronised by the Vijayanagara rulers**, and later by those in **Golconda**. With the advent of Vaishnavism during the **Bhakti movement** of 16th century CE, this art form began to be practised almost exclusively by **male Brahmins** who were called Bhagvathalus. The dance recitals are often based on stories from Bhagavata Purana, but often have secular themes, especially Sringar Ras. Hence this option is **correct**.

Knowledge Base:

Other features of Kuchipudi:

- 1) Both Tandav and Lasya components have equal dominance in this dance form.
- 2) The dance may also take the role of the singer, thus making it a dance-drama performance.
- 3) The recital is accompanied by Carnatic music - Violin and Mridangam being the chief instruments.
- 4) Some important solo elements:
 - a. Manduka Shabdham: story of a frog.
 - b. Taranagam: dancer performs with their feet on edge of a brass plate while balancing a pot of water or a set of diyas on head.
 - c. Jala Chitra Nrityam: Dancer draws pictures on the floor with his/ her toes while dancing.

Read further: <http://ccrtindia.gov.in/kuchipudi-dance/>

Source: Indian Art & Culture by Nitin Singhanian, 5th edition, Ch-6, Pg-6.5, 6.6;

<http://ccrtindia.gov.in/kuchipudi-dance/>

Q.7) Recently, 'Gamosa' got Geographical Indication tag. Regarding 'Gamosa', consider the following statements:

1. It is a handwoven cotton piece of cloth traditionally offered to elders as a mark of respect.
2. It is traditionally manufactured by the indigenous people of Raigadh district of Maharashtra.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

India having a diverse culture is home to various arts and crafts mastered by many generations over the years. Recently, **Gamosa of Assam**, **Tandur Redgram of Telangana**, **RaktseyKarpoo Apricot of Ladakh**, **Alibag White Onion of Maharashtra** etc. have been given the coveted GI Tags.

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Statement 1 is correct: Gamosa, a handwoven rectangular cotton piece of cloth with red borders and different designs and motifs, is traditionally offered to elders and guests as a mark of respect and honour by Assamese. Gamosa is a symbol of cultural identity of Assam.



Gamosa

Statements 2 is incorrect: The Gamosa or Gamusa is Body wipes or Towel, an article of significance for the indigenous people of **Assam, India** (not from Maharashtra).

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1883513>

Assamese gamosa receives the GI tag (indiatimes.com)

Q.8) “This great epic of Tamil literature was written around 2nd century A.D. It is a story of miscarriage of justice done to Kannagi at the court of Pandyan dynasty and subsequent revenge taken on kingdom. It is also a moralistic discourse abounding Jain themes and ideas.” This is a description of the book:

- a) Tolkappiyam
- b) Kundalakesi
- c) Manimekalai
- d) Silappadikaram

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Tamil literature follows the history of Tamil Nadu, closely following the social, economic, political and cultural trends of various periods. The early Tamil literature, dated before 300 BCE, constitutes the Sangam literature. Post-Sangam Period lasted from 200 to 600 CE. This age saw the composition of five great epics in Tamil namely:

- 1) Silappadikaram
- 2) Manimekalai
- 3) Jivaka Chintamani
- 4) Valaiyapati
- 5) Kundalakesi

Option a is incorrect: Tolkappiyam is the most ancient and existing Tamil grammar text and the oldest extant long work of Tamil literature. Some in the Tamil tradition place the text in the mythical second sangam, variously in 1st millennium BCE or earlier.

Option b is incorrect: Kundalakesi, is a Tamil Buddhist epic written by Nathakuthanaar. The epic is a story about love, marriage, getting tired with the married partner, murder and then discovering religion.

Option c is incorrect: Manimekalai is a sequel to the earliest Tamil epic Silappadikaram.

Manimekalai is written around 6th century CE. The title Manimekalai is also the name of the daughter of Kovalan and Madhavi, who becomes a Buddhist nun.

Option d is correct: Ilango Adigal's **Silappadikaram** is considered one of the greatest epics of Tamil literature and was written in **2nd century AD**. It revolves around Kannagi, who having lost her husband to a miscarriage of justice at the court of the Pandyan Dynasty, wreaks her revenge on his kingdom. The

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Silappatikaran contains Jain themes and the ideas like the idea of Sallekhana, and the presence of Kuvanti the Jain Sadhavi who is a spiritual preceptor/ religious adviser.

Source: Nitin Singhania, Indian Literature

<https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/64662/2/BLOCK%204.pdf>

Q.9) With reference to the musical instrument named Cymbals, consider the following statements:

1. It belongs to the Solid type of musical instruments.
2. It is widely used in the Sattriya dance.
3. Its origin can be traced back to the Indus valley civilisation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: Cymbal, is a solid type musical instrument made of metal and cloth. Cymbals are generally used in pairs; it consists of thin round plates. The most popular examples of Cymbals are Manjira, Jaltarang, Kanchtarang, Jhanj, Khartal, etc.



Statement 2 is correct: Drum, Cymbals (Manjira) and Flute are major musical instruments of Sattriya dance. Sattriya dance in its modern form was introduced by the Vaishnava saint Shankaradeva in the 15th century A.D in Assam. It is a devotional dance and narrates mythological stories of Lord Vishnu.

Statement 3 is correct: The Manjira is a small brass cymbal that is generally used in temples. Archaeological excavations have dated Manjira to be as old as the Harappan civilisation. The function of these instruments is to keep rhythm and time with the song that is being sung.

Source: Nitin Singhania: Chapter Indian Music

<https://indianculture.gov.in/musical-instruments/ghan-vadya>

Q.10) What is the objective of the National Mission on Natural Farming, seen in the news recently?

- a) To augment the supply chain and marketing mechanisms of organic produce.
- b) To promote the usage of High Yielding Variety seeds in the production of crops and vegetables.
- c) To promote local varieties of fruits and vegetables.
- d) To promote chemical free farming methods using local resources and traditional farming.

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)** is an initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture to promote sustainable and eco-friendly farming methods using local resources and traditional knowledge while not using any chemical inputs – be it hybrid seeds, or chemical fertilisers, or chemical pesticides, etc.

Natural Farming is considered as an agroecology based diversified farming system which integrates crops, trees and livestock with functional biodiversity. It is largely based on on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of on-farm cow dung-urine formulations; maintaining soil aeration and exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs. Natural farming is expected to reduce dependency on purchased inputs. It is considered as a cost-effective farming practice with scope for increasing employment and rural development.

The objective of the NMNF is to implement self-sustainable and self-generating natural farming systems for freedom from purchased inputs with the aim to cut down on cost of cultivation, enhance farmers income and ensure resource conservation and safe & healthy soils, environment and food.

Knowledge Base:

Proposed actions under the NMNF:

- 1) Creating institutional capacities for documentation and dissemination of best practices.
- 2) Making practising farmers as partners in promotion strategy.
- 3) Ensuring capacity building and continuous hand holding.
- 4) Promoting alternative systems of farming for freedom from external purchased inputs, cost reduction and thereby increasing income of farmers.
- 5) Popularising integrated agriculture-animal husbandry models based on desi cow and local resources.
- 6) Collecting, validating and documenting Natural Farming practices being practised in various parts of the country and to encourage participatory research with farmers on further up scaling.
- 7) Undertaking activities for awareness creation, capacity building, promotion and demonstration of Natural Farming.
- 8) Creating standards, certification procedure and branding for Natural Farming products for national and international markets.

Benefits of Natural Farming



Source: <http://naturalfarming.dac.gov.in/NaturalFarming/Concept>
<http://naturalfarming.dac.gov.in/AboutUs/MissionAndObjectives>

Q.11) In the context of cultural history of India, a pose in dance and dramatics called ‘Tribhanga’ has been a favourite of Indian artists from ancient times till today.

Which one of the following statements best describes this pose?

- a) One leg is bent and the body is slightly but oppositely curved at waist and neck.
- b) Facial expressions, hand gestures and make-up are combined to symbolize certain epic or historic characters.

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- c) Movements of body, face and hands are used to express oneself or to tell a story.
 d) A little smile, slightly curved waist and certain hand gestures are emphasized to express the feelings of love or eroticism.

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Tribhanga is a 'triple-bend position' where the body bends in one direction at the knees, the other direction at the hips and then the other again at the shoulders and neck. Along with 'chowk', it is one of the basic postures of Indian classical dance 'Odissi'.

Source: UPSC 2013

Q.12) With reference to the development of substyles of Hindustani classical music, consider the following statements:

1. Sufism played a major role in the development and spread of Ghazal.
2. Compositions of Thumri are usually romantic or devotional in nature.
3. Tappa is originated from the folk songs of camel riders of Punjab.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The Ghazal as a poetic form originated in Persia in the tenth century. Later Ghazal developed as a **sub style of Hindustani classical music**, which was influenced by Sufism. **Sufi mystics** (a person who believes attaining insights into mysteries transcending ordinary human knowledge) **played a major role in spreading Ghazal music in India and South Asia during the 12th century.**

Statement 2 is correct: **Thumri** a sub style of Hindustani classical music was **adopted by the Bhakti saints to connect with gods.** Compositions of Thumri are either **romantic or devotional in nature and the main theme being the girl's love for Krishna.** It was usually sung in a female voice. The thumri is very lyrical in its structure and presentation. Thumri is a love song and hence the textual beauty is very important. This is closely coordinated with the musical rendition. And keeping in mind its mood a thumri is usually set to ragas like Khamaj, Kaphi, Bhairavi and so on and the musical grammar is not strictly adhered to.

Statement 3 is correct: **Tappa, a substyle of Hindustani classical music** originated from the **folk songs of the camel riders of Punjab** known as 'dhapa', which was transformed into the Hindi Tappa. It gained legitimacy and popularity under the **Mughal emperor Muhammad Shah.**

Source: Nitin Singhania: Chapter - Indian Architecture

<https://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Tappa>

Q.13) Which of the following theatre forms of India have been included in UNESCO'S representative list of intangible cultural heritage of humanity?

1. Koodiyattam
2. Karyala
3. Mudi yettu
4. Ramman
5. Bhand Pather

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Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- b) 2, 3 and 5 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Option 1 is correct: Koodiyattam is a traditional performing art form from the **Indian state of Kerala**. It combines elements of ancient Sanskrit theatre with Koothu, an ancient performing art from the Sangam era. Kutiyattam (Koodiyattam), which dates back around 2000 years, has been **designated by UNESCO** as a 'Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity'.

Option 2 is incorrect: Karyala is popular in **districts of Himachal**, Karyala is an impromptu folk theatre that **does not need any stage**. It is mostly performed during Diwali and is usually performed by a person for the deity. This theatre is a fusion of drama, versification, music, and dance. It is **not included in UNESCO'S** representative list of intangible cultural heritage of humanity.

Option 3 is correct: Mudi yettu is a **traditional ritual theatre** and folk-dance drama from **Kerala** based on the mythological tale of a battle between the goddess Kali and the demon Darika. It is a community ritual in which the entire village participates. It depicts the mythological storey of the Goddess Kali and the demon Darika in battle. It was included in the **UNESCO'S List** of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2010.

Option 4 is correct: Ramman is an **Indian religious event and ritual theatre** that takes place in the Garhwal area. It is a Hindu community celebration held in the Saloor Dungra hamlet in the Painkhanda Valley in **Uttarakhand's Chamoli district**. It was included in **UNESCO'S List** of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2009.

Option 5 is incorrect: Bhand Pather (**Kashmir**) is an **age-old folk theatre** having its origins in Kashmir. It is commonly held in open spaces and performed along with musical instruments like the surnai, nagada, and dhol. It is **not included in UNESCO'S representative list** of intangible cultural heritage of humanity.

Source: Browse the Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Register of good safeguarding practices - intangible heritage - Culture Sector - UNESCO

Q.14) Which of the following statements best describes the role of Vidushak and Sutradhar in ancient Sanskrit theatres/plays?

1. Vidushaka is the one who questions the prevailing social norms through satire.
2. Sutradhar is primarily responsible for costumes and makeup of the artists and the actors.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Theatre in India began as a narrative art form, which encompassed a concoction of music, dance and acting. Recitation, dance and music were integral parts of theatre. Characters in Sanskrit plays were important. They were broadly classified into three kinds which are Nayaka (Hero or the Protagonist), Nayika (Heroine) and the Vidusaka (Clown).

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Statement 1 is correct: Vidusaka (Clown), the comic character plays a vital role in the plays. He is the noble and good-hearted, often a friend of hero. He **questions the prevailing social norms through satire**. The vidushaka is one who challenges social norms. He provides comic relief while simultaneously prodding us to actually think.

Statement 2 is incorrect: In Indian theatre, Sutradhar is the **narrator who narrates the play and sings verses**. The Sutradhar, is the **stage manager and director**, who enters the stage with his assistants. The time and place of the play was announced by the Sutradhar. He also gave a brief introduction of the playwright. For example, in Mahabharata, the Sutradhar of the story is Lord Krishna.

Source: The sutradhar as puppeteer (thehindu.com)

Nitin Singhania – Indian Art and Culture for Civil Services

Q.15) With reference to the India Infrastructure Project Development Fund (IIPDF), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to support development of bankable Public Private Partnership (PPP) infra projects.
2. It is created in the Department of Financial Services.
3. It has an initial corpus of 100 crores.
4. It will provide an upfront payment of 30% of project cost to the private partner in the PPP project.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The India Infrastructure Project Development Fund (IIPDF) is a scheme designed to promote infrastructure development through Public Private Partnership (PPP).

Statement 1 is correct: The IIPDF scheme will try to promote infra projects by aiding the process of project report creation for finding various bankable and credit worthy PPP infra projects. Hence this statement is correct.

In order to improve the success rate, as well as reduce overhead costs in PPP projects many activities such as feasibility study, consultancy on technical aspects, etc need to be undertaken that are time and money consuming. So, this fund will cover such costs to select PPP projects on which the government must focus and invest.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The IIPDF has been placed under the Department of Economic Affairs (not Financial Services) of the Union Ministry of Finance. Hence this statement is **incorrect**.

Statement 3 is correct: The IIPDF has been designed as a revolving fund, with an initial corpus of Rs 100 Crore. Hence this statement is correct.

The initial corpus will be provided out of the budget for the Union Ministry of Finance. Thereafter it would be supplemented, should it become necessary, through budgetary support by the Ministry of Finance from time to time. As the IIPDF matures, funding from the multilateral and bilateral agencies could become available. Other interested agency(ies), as approved by DEA, including the bilateral agencies, will be permitted to join the IIPDF. Agents with conflict of interest will not be allowed to contribute to the fund.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The IIPDF will be providing costs for initial project report development work subject to certain maximum limits to the Sponsoring Authorities within the Central and State governments. This fund shall not be providing any financial assistance to the concessionaire (private partner) in the PPP. Hence this statement is **incorrect**.

Source: https://mohua.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/Guideline_Scheme_IIPDF.pdf

Q.16) Which of the following theatre forms find mention in the Sangam literature?

1. Mudi yettu
2. Koodiyattam
3. Theyyam
4. Yakshagana

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Traditional art forms reflect the ideals of the society, its determination to survive, its ethos. The traditional folk theatre reflects the various aspects of the local lifestyle including social norms, beliefs and customs. Folk theatre had rural roots and the rustic flavour was reflected in the dramatic style involved.

Option 1 is incorrect: A traditional ritual theatre, Mudi yettu, is a folk dance and drama performed in the State of Kerala. It depicts the mythological tale of a battle between Goddess Kali and demon Darika. The dance is performed in the village temples, called Bhagavati Kavus, after the harvesting season usually between February and May. It is **not mentioned in the Sangam literature**.



Mudi yettu

Option 2 is correct: Koodiyattam is a combined dance drama **from Kerala** conducted by the Chakyars (a sub-caste among Hindus) who play the male role traditionally. The women of the Ambalavasi Nambiar caste play the female roles. They are mainly enacted inside the temples and the theme is based on Hindu mythology. It is a combination of ancient Sanskrit theatre with elements of Koothu, **an ancient performing art from the Sangam era**. It is officially recognised by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. **It is mentioned in the Sangam literature.**



Koodiyattam

Option 3 is correct: Theyyams are performed in Kerala. It is similar to a practice in Karnataka, called Bhuta Kola. It is an open theatre and is performed in front of the local temples to mainly honour the spirit of the ancestors besides gods. Themes of Vaishnavism, Shaktism and Shaivism are now common. The actors wear elaborate headgear and colourful costumes. **It is mentioned in the Sangam literature.**



Theyyam

Option 4 is incorrect: Yakshagana is perhaps the oldest theatre traditions, which is prevalent till date in Karnataka and parts of Kerala. It originated in the royal courts of the Vijayanagara empire and was performed by a particular community known as Jakkula Varu. It is mentioned **in the Sanskrit literature (not Sangam literature)**.



Yakshagana

Source: Nitin Singhania - Indian Art and Culture for Civil Services

Koodiyattam - famous art form of Kerala (speakingtree.in)

Q.17) With reference to Indian Puppetry, consider the following pairs:

Puppetry - States

1. Bommalattam - Kerala
2. Ravanachhaya - Odisha
3. Pavakoothu - Andhra Pradesh
4. Putul Nautch - West Bengal

Which of the pairs given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 1 and 4 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 2 and 4 only

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Puppetry is one of the ancient forms of entertainment. The element of a puppet being controlled by a master makes it a captivating experience. This form of entertainment gives unrestricted freedom to the artist in design, colour and movement making it one of the most ingenious inventions of mankind.

Pair 1 is incorrectly matched: Bommalattam is the Puppets from **Tamil Nadu**, known as Bommalattam combine the techniques of **both rod and string puppets**. They are made of wood and the strings for manipulation are tied to an iron ring which the puppeteer wears like a crown on his head. The Bommalattam puppets are the largest, heaviest and the most articulate of all traditional Indian marionettes.



Fig. 8.5 : Bommalattam

Pair 2 is correctly matched: Ravanachhaya is the most theatrical shadow puppetry and is a popular form of entertainment in the **Odisha** region. The puppets are made of deer skin and depict bold and dramatic postures. They do not have any joints attached to them, making it a more complex art. Use of non-human puppets such as trees and animals is common. The Ravanachhaya artists are extremely well trained in their art creating a lyrical and sensitive theatrical narration.



Fig. 8.7: Ravanchhaya

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched: Pavakoothu is the traditional glove puppet played in the **Kerala**. It came into existence during the 18th century due to the influence of Kathakali, the famous classical dance-drama of Kerala, on puppet performances. In Pavakoothu, the height of a puppet varies from one foot to two feet. The head and the arms are carved of wood and joined together with thick cloth, cut and stitched into a small bag. The theme for Glove puppet plays in Kerala is based on the episodes from either the Ramayana or the Mahabharata.



Pavakotthu

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Pair 4 is correctly matched: Putul Nautch is the traditional **rod puppet form West Bengal**. They are carved from wood and follow the various artistic styles of a particular region. In Nadia district of West Bengal, rod-puppets used to be of human size like the Bunraku puppets of Japan. This form is now almost extinct. The Bengal rod-puppets, which survive are about 3 to 4 feet in height and are costumed like the actors of Jatra, a traditional theatre form prevalent in the State. These puppets have mostly three joints. The heads, supported by the main rod, is joined at the neck and both hands attached to rods are joined at the shoulders.

Source: Puppet Forms - CCRTCCRT (ccrtindia.gov.in)

Nitin Singhania - Indian Art and Culture for Civil Services

Q.18) With reference to Geographical Indication (GI) Tags, consider the following statements:

1. In India, GI Tags are exclusively governed under the Indian Patents and Designs Act, 1970.
2. GI tag to any product is issued by the Ministry of Culture.
3. It is covered under Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.
4. GI Tags prevent its use by a third party whose product does not conform to the applicable standards.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 and 4 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Geographical Indication (GI) is an indication used to identify goods having special characteristics originating from a definite geographical territory. It is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product mainly on handicrafts and industrial goods.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Geographical Indication (GI) tags is **enacted by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**. Whereas, the provisions of the **Patents Act, 1970** with regard to certificates of the validity of a patent, and to the remedy in case of groundless threats of legal proceedings by a patentee shall apply in the case of registered designs in like manner.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Geographical Indication (GI) tag is issued by the Geographical Indication Registry under the **Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry** (not from Ministry of Culture). The tag provided by the ministry is valid for the **ten years**.

Statement 3 is correct: Geographical indications are covered as an element of IPRs under Articles 1 (2) and 10 of the **Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property**. They are also covered under Articles 22 to 24 of the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, which was part of the Agreements concluding the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations.

Statement is 4 correct: A geographical indication **prevent its use by a third party whose product does not conform to the applicable standards**. For example, in the jurisdictions in which the Darjeeling geographical indication is protected, producers of Darjeeling tea can exclude use of the term “Darjeeling” for tea not grown in their tea gardens or not produced according to the standards set out in the code of practice for the geographical indication.

Source: About Us | Geographical Indications | Intellectual Property India (ipindia.gov.in)

Geographical Indications: What do they specify? (wipo.int)

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Q.19) It is a ritualistic dance form of Kerala. It is performed to honour the spirit of the ancestors and gods. The actors wear crowned masks and colourful costumes. The form is-

- a) Theyyam
- b) Terukkuttu
- c) Pagati Veshala
- d) Bayalata

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Theyyam is one of the famous Indian ritualistic Dance Forms **performed in Kolathunadu, Kerala**. It is a ceremonial dance along with music played by instruments like Chenda, Elathalam, Kurumkuzal and Veekkuchenda. It talks about the beliefs of the ancient tribals, who gave importance to the worship of heroes and the **spirits of their ancestors**. Performers of theyyam wear heavy make-up and adorn flamboyant costumes. There are different patterns of facial makeup. Theyyam is characterised by the use of elaborate, crowned masks that represent particular deities. The colours used for theyyam is extracted from Nature like Chayilyam, Karimazhi, Aripodi and Maniyola.



Theyyam

Source: Nitin Singhania - Indian Art and Culture for Civil Services

Kantara's famous Buta Kola and other majestic ritual dances of India | Times of India Travel (indiatimes.com)

Q.20) Consider the following statements about the Telecom Technology Development Fund scheme:

1. It aims to fund research & development in rural-specific communication technology applications.
2. The scheme aims to promote indigenous manufacturing.
3. One of the objectives under the scheme is the creation of Intellectual Property.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), a body under the Department of Telecommunications, officially launched **Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) Scheme on October 01st, 2022.**

Statement 1 correct: Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) aims to fund R&D in rural-specific communication technology applications and form synergies among academia, start-ups, research institutes, and the industry to build and develop the telecom ecosystem.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct: The TTDF Scheme also aims to promote technology ownership and indigenous manufacturing, create a culture of technology co-innovation, reduce imports, boost export opportunities and creation of Intellectual Property.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1864133>

Q.21) With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements:

1. It is a song and dance performance.
2. Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance.
3. It is performed to narrate the life and deeds of Lord Krishna.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. Sankirtana involves ritual singing, drumming and dancing performed in the temples and domestic spaces.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Drums and shankha are also used in Sankirtana performances.

Statement 3 is correct. Sankirtana performers narrate the lives and deeds of Krishna.

Sankirtana inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Source: UPSC 2017

Q.22) With reference to folk theatres, consider the following pairs:

Folk theatres – Famous in States

1. Ramlila – Uttar Pradesh
2. Swang – Haryana
3. Bhaona – Gujarat
4. Yakshagana – Karnataka

Which of the pairs given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Folk traditional folk theatre reflects the various aspects of the local lifestyle including social norms, beliefs and custom. Folk theatre had rural roots and the rustic flavour that was reflected in the dramatic style involved.

Pair 1 is correctly matched: Ramlila is a popular folk theatre in the region of Uttar Pradesh, it is an enactment of Ramayana using songs, dances and dialogues, mainly during the period before Dussehra. Generally performed by males, the role of Sita is also done by male actors. The play is staged annually over 10 or more successive nights, during the auspicious period of “Sharad Navaratri”.

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Pair 2 is correctly matched: Swangs are popular source of entertainment in the region of Rajasthan and Haryana. They are mainly musical dramas, sung through verses, accompanied by the music of ektara, harmonium, sarangi, dholak and khartal. It also involves mimicry accompanied by dialogue.

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched: Bhaona is a folk theatre of Assam, especially the Majuli Island. The idea is to spread religious and moral messages to people through entertainment and drama. It is a presentation of Ankia Naat and Vaishnavite themes are common. Sutraddhar (Narrator) narrates the play and sings verses from holy texts. Songs and music are also a part of it. This folk theatre was created by Sankardeva in early 16th century.

Pair 4 is correctly matched: Yakshagana is perhaps the oldest theatre traditions, which is prevalent till date in **Karnataka and parts of Kerala**. It originated in the royal courts of the Vijayanagara empire and was performed by a particular community known as Jakkula Varu. Originally, it was largely a descriptive dance-drama enacted by a single artist. Later forms adopted further variations and became a typical dance drama. It is strongly influenced by Vaishnava Bhakti Movement.

Source: Nitin Singhania - Indian Art and Culture for Civil Services

Assam's 500-year-old theatre tradition (thehindu.com)

Q.23) Which of the following statements are correct about the 'Bharat Ratna' award?

1. The recommendations for Bharat Ratna awards are made by the Prime Minister to the President.
2. It can be awarded only up to three people in a year.
3. Both Indian citizens and non-Indians are eligible for these awards.
4. The award cannot be used as a prefix or suffix of the receiver's name.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1 and 4 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

'Bharat Ratna' is the highest civilian Award of the country that was instituted in the year 1954. Any person without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex is eligible for these awards.

Statement 1 is correct. The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the **Prime Minister** himself to the **President**.

Statement 2 is correct. The number of Bharat Ratna annual awards is restricted to a **maximum of three in a particular year**. The Award **does not carry** any monetary grant.

Statement 3 is correct. The Bharat Ratna can be **awarded to both Indian citizens and non-Indians** for their exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour as there is no written rule against the same. **Mother Teresa**, a naturalised Indian citizen was conferred with the award in 1980. Non-Indians, **Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan** and **Nelson Mandela** have also been awarded with the Bharat Ratna.

Statement 4 is correct. As per **Article 18(1) of the Indian Constitution**, awardees of Bharat Ratna cannot use 'Bharat Ratna' as a **prefix or suffix** to their name. However, they can add 'Awarded Bharat Ratna by the President' or 'Recipient of Bharat Ratna Award' in their biodata, visiting card, letter head, etc.

Knowledge Base:

Physical Features of Award: -

- 1) The physical award is designed in the shape of a peepal leaf with 'Bharat Ratna' inscribed in Devanagiri script under a sunburst figure.

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- 2) The reverse side of the award figurine features 'Satyameva Jayate' written in Hindi under an inscription of the state emblem.
- 3) The emblem, the sun and the rim of the Bharat Ratna award are made of platinum while the inscriptions are in burnished bronze.

Source: https://www.mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/Scheme-BR_1.pdf

<https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/gk-&-current-affairs/story/facts-about-bharat-ratna-list-of-bharat-ratna-awardees-1867079-2021-10-20>

Q.24) With reference to the recently celebrated Putul Utsav, consider the following statements:

1. It was recently celebrated to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community towards the development of India.
2. It was organised by Ministry of External affairs.
3. To mark India's 75 years of Independence, tales of India's struggle for freedom had been retold in this event.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 2 only
- d) 3 only

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 and 2 are incorrect: Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi an **autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture** organized Putul Utsav, a puppet festival to mark World Puppetry Day on 21st March 2022. With India celebrating 75 years of independence, the theme of the festival was Azadi Ke Rang, Putul Ke Sang in keeping with the spirit of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. In this gala event, tales of India's struggle for freedom were retold through the medium of puppets. The festival commenced on the 21st of March, 2022 was celebrated by various events in five different cities - Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Hyderabad (Telangana), Angul district (Odisha), New Delhi, and Agartala (Tripura).

Pravasi Bhartiya Divas is a celebrated to mark the **contribution of the overseas Indian community** towards the development of India.

Statement 3 is correct: With India celebrating 75 years of independence, **tales of India's struggle for freedom had been retold through the medium of puppets in the Putul Utsav event.** The theme of the festival is **Azadi Ke Rang, Putul Ke Sang** in keeping with the spirit of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Source: <https://amritmahotsav.nic.in/event-detail.htm?17823>

Q.25) Consider the following pairs of the initiatives and their area of work:

Initiatives	Area of Work
1. Yuva 2.0	Mentoring of Authors
2. SAMRIDH Scheme	Rehabilitation of sanitation workers
3. NAMASTE Scheme	Support to Start-ups
4. BioCare Scheme	Empowering women scientists

How many pairs given above are matched correctly?

- a) One pair only
- b) Two pairs only
- c) Three pairs only

d) All four pairs

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: The Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors, known as YUVA 2.0 (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors), was launched by the Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education on October 2. In order to promote India and Indian literature abroad, it is an **author mentoring programme for young and aspiring writers** who are under 30 years old. YUVA 2.0 aims to artistically and ingeniously emphasize the viewpoints of the younger generation of authors.

Pair 2 is incorrect: The main objective of the MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) SAMRIDH scheme is to provide **funding support to startups** so that they can become successful. Through this scheme, not only funding support but also skill sets will be provided to the entrepreneurs. SAMRIDH stands for Startup Accelerator of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development and Growth.

Pair 3 is incorrect: NAMASTE stands for National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem. NAMASTE is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) as a joint initiative of the MoSJE and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). NAMASTE envisages the **safety and dignity of sanitation workers in urban India** by creating an enabling ecosystem that recognizes sanitation workers as one of the key contributors to the operations and maintenance of sanitation infrastructure.

Pair 4 is correct: Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation Programme (BioCARE) is a mission programme of the department for empowering **women scientists** of India. The programme is mainly for Career Development of employed/unemployed women Scientists upto 45 years of age for whom it is the first extramural research grant.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1864515>

<https://www.meity.gov.in/writereaddata/files/SAMRIDH%20Scheme%20Document.pdf>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1852627>

<https://dbtindia.gov.in/schemes-programmes/special-programmes/biotechnology-career-advancement-re-orientation-programme>

Q.26) With reference to the tradition of puppetry in India, consider the following pairs:

Name of Puppetry : Type of Puppetry

1. Tholu Bommalata : String puppet
2. Pavakoothu : Glove puppet
3. Kundhei : Shadow puppet
4. Yampuri : Rod puppet

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- a) Only one pair
- b) Only two pairs
- c) Only three pairs
- d) All four pairs

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The art of puppetry has been a theatre tradition in India since time immemorial. It is used as a tool for communication, education, and recreation. India has four kinds of traditionally puppetry, these are **String, Shadow, Rod, and Hand puppets**.

Pair 1 is incorrect: Tholu Bommalata is the shadow puppet play of Andhra Pradesh. These Puppets are **coloured on both sides**. Hence, these puppets throw coloured shadows on the screen. The theme of the

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puppet plays is drawn from the Ramayana, Mahabharata and Puranas. On the other hand, **Bommallattam puppet play in Tamilnadu combines the techniques of both rod and string puppets.**

Pair 2 is correct: Pavakoothu is a traditional **glove puppet play** in **Kerala**. It came into existence during the 18th century due to the **influence of Kathakali**, the famous classical dance-drama of Kerala, on puppet performances. In Pavakoothu, the height of a puppet varies from one foot to two feet. The head and the arms are **carved of wood and joined together with thick cloth, cut and stitched into a small bag.**

Pair 3 is incorrect: Kundhei is the **string puppet play prevalent in Odisha**. Made of light wood, these puppets have **no legs but wear long flowing skirts**. They have more joints and are, therefore, more versatile, articulate and easy to manipulate

Pair 4 is correct: Yampuri is a **traditional Rod puppet play in Bihar**. These puppets are made of wood. Unlike the traditional Rod puppets of West Bengal and Orissa, these **puppets are in one piece and have no joints**. As these puppets have no joints, the manipulation is different from other Rod puppets and requires greater dexterity.

Source: <http://ccrtindia.gov.in/puppet-forms/>

Q.27) With reference to various products that received Geographical Identification (GI) tags, consider the following pairs:

Products	States/Union territories
1. Tandur Redgram	Telangana
2. Raktsey Karpo Apricot	Ladakh
3. Alibag White Onion	Maharashtra
4. Mithila Makhana	Bihar
5. Kangra tea	West Bengal

Which of the pairs given above are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 4 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

India having a diverse culture is home to various arts and crafts mastered by many generations over the years. Recently in December 2022, **Gamosa of Assam, Tandur Redgram of Telangana, RaktseyKarpo Apricot of Ladakh, Alibag White Onion of Maharashtra** etc. have been given the coveted GI Tags.

Pair 1 is correctly matched: Tandur red gram is a local variety of pigeon pea which is mainly grown in the rainfed tract of the Tandur and nearby regions of **Telangana**. It contains about 22-24% protein, which is almost three times that of the protein content in cereals.



Tandur Red gram

Pair 2 is correctly matched: Raktsey Karpo, from family of **apricot**, packed with vitamins and low on calories is rich in sorbitol – a natural glucose substitute that can be consumed by diabetics. It is grown **in Ladakh, and locally known as 'Chuli'**. The native apricot genotypes of Ladakh possess unique characteristics, such as high TSS (Total dissolved solids) content, late and extended flowering and fruit maturity, and white seed stone phenotype.



Raktsey Karpo

Pair 3 is correctly matched: Alibagh White onion is known for its unique sweet taste, no-tear factor, and medicinal properties. It grows in **Raigadh district of Maharashtra**. They are an excellent source of antioxidants that contain more than 25 different types of flavonoids which lowers the risk of developing chronic diseases like diabetes, cancer, and heart disease.



Alibagh White onion

Pair 4 is correctly matched: Mithila Makhana or Makhan (botanical name: *Euryale ferox* Salisb.) is a special variety of aquatic fox nut cultivated in **Mithila region of Bihar and Nepal**. Makhana contains protein and fiber, along with micronutrients like calcium, magnesium, iron, and phosphorus.



Makhana

Pair 5 is incorrectly matched: Kangra tea is a tea from the **Kangra district in Himachal Pradesh, India**. Both black tea and green tea have been produced in the Kangra Valley since the mid-19th century. Kangra tea is known for its unique color and flavor. While the black tea has a sweet lingering after taste, the green tea has a delicate woody aroma.

Source: [https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?](https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1883513)

PRID=1883513

Telangana's Tandur red gram gets GI tag-ForumIAS Blog

Govt awards GI tag to Mithila Makhana for 'farmer's profit' | Business News, The Indian Express

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Q.28) With reference to languages in India, consider the following pairs:

Indian language	Mainly spoken in the region of
1. Tulu language	Kerala
2. Kokborok	Andhra Pradesh
3. Birhor	Chota Nagpur region
4. Kharia	Odisha

How many of the pairs given above are correct?

- a) One pair only
- b) Two pairs only
- c) Three pairs only
- d) All four pairs

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The 2011 linguistic census accounts for 121 mother tongues, including 22 languages listed in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. Hindi is the most widely spoken, 43.6% of the population, declaring it as their mother tongue. The next highest is Bengali, mother tongue for 9.7 crores (8%).

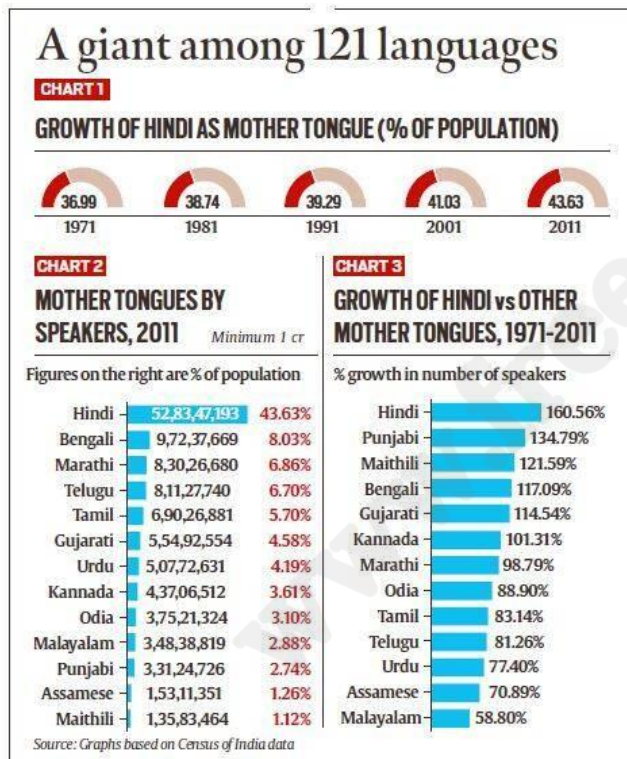
Pair 1 is correct: Tulu is a Dravidian language spoken mainly in two coastal districts Dakshina Kannada and Udupi of **Karnataka** and Kasaragod district of **Kerala**. As per the 2011 Census report, there are 18,46,427 Tulu-speaking people in India.

Pair 2 is incorrect: Kokborok was first recognised as an official language of Tripura in 1979.

Pair 3 is correct: Birhor language is spoken by Birhor tribe in Chota Nagpur region. UNESCO has categorised Birhor as the critically endangered language, with only 2000 speakers left.

Pair 4 is correct: Kharia is a Munda language spoken mainly in Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh.

Knowledge Base:



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Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/tulu-language-protest-history-7358953/>
<https://indianexpress.com/article/political-pulse/amit-shah-hindi-remarks-tripura-tribal-body-roman-script-kokborok-7894171/>
<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/governance/seven-decades-after-independence-many-tribal-languages-in-india-face-extinction-threat-73071>
<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2022/apr/25/tribal-kids-in-jharkhand-to-get-lessons-in-their-own-language-2446174.html>

Q.29) With reference to music traditions in India, consider the following statements:

1. All the seven notes of the music can be found in the Sama Veda.
2. The classical music text Sangeet Ratnakara defined ragas from both North India and South India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Music in India began as an integral part of socio-religious life and India has had a long tradition of musical ingenuity. It is as old as human civilisation and earlier reference to music can be found in the Vedas.

Statement 1 is correct: The Sama Veda mentions all the seven notes (svaras) of music. They were – Krushta, Prathama, Dvitiya, Tritiya, Chaturtha, Mandra and Atisvarya. They are comparable to the Laukik Svaras Ma, Ga, Re, Sa, Dha, Ni, Pa respectively.

Relation of Vedic Svaras to Laukik Svaras		
S. No.	Sama Vedic Svara	Laukik Svara
1.	Krushta	Ma
2.	Prathama	Ga
3.	Dvitiya	Re
4.	Tritiya	Sa
5.	Chaturtha	Dha
6.	Mandra	Ni
7.	Atisvarya	Pa

Statement 2 is correct: Melodies of Indian music are based on ragas (in southern India, ragam). Like a scale, the raga is a list of the notes that are used in a particular piece of music. Raga is a set of Svaras. The classic text on music **Sangeet Ratnakara was written by Sarangadeva**, a 13th century musicologist. This book **defined about 264 ragas including some from the North Indian and the South Indian region.** Its greatest contribution was to identify and **describe the various microtones and classify them into different categories.**

Source: Nitin Singhania - Chapter 5 Indian Music

https://www.nios.ac.in/media/documents/Hindustani_Music_242/hindustanimusictheorybook1/HMB1Ch6.pdf

[https://www.nios.ac.in/media/documents/OBE_indian_knowledge_tradition/Level_A/Vocational_Skills/Pre_Voc_\(Level-A\)_ch-5-final.pdf](https://www.nios.ac.in/media/documents/OBE_indian_knowledge_tradition/Level_A/Vocational_Skills/Pre_Voc_(Level-A)_ch-5-final.pdf)

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Q.30) Consider the following statements with reference to the SMILE-75 initiative launched in India:

1. The initiative is intended for persons who are engaged in the act of begging.
2. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment will provide funding for the initiative.
3. Medical facilities and skill development provisions are covered under this scheme.
4. Its exclusive focus would be on rural areas of the country.

Which of the above-given statements are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2, and 3 only
- d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

SMILE stands for Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise. Under the “SMILE-75” Initiative, 75 Municipal Corporations will undertake comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of begging in the spirit of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Statement 1 and 2 are correct: The Government of India has formulated a comprehensive scheme of SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) **to address the persisting problem of destitution and beggary. It will cover several comprehensive welfare measures for persons who are engaged in the act of begging.** The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has also allocated a total budget of Rs.100 crore for the SMILE project for coming years till 2025-26.

Statement 3 is correct: The scheme will focus extensively on **rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counselling, awareness, education, skill development, economic linkages** and convergence with other Government welfare programmes etc.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Municipal Corporations in municipal areas (not rural), in collaboration with NGOs and other stakeholders will work towards the scheme. One of the key objectives is to make cities/town and municipal areas begging-free.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1850579>

Q.31) With reference to Dhrupad, one of the major traditions of India that has been kept alive for centuries, which of the following statements are correct?

1. Dhrupad originated and developed in the Rajput kingdoms during the Mughal period.
2. Dhrupad is primarily a devotional and spiritual music.
3. Dhrupad Alap uses Sanskrit syllables from Mantras.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None of the above is correct

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Dhrupad claims the distinction of being the oldest form of Indian Classical music heard today, its origin can be traced back to the chanting of Vedic hymns and mantras. It is said to be a form of the Gandharva Veda, the Vedic science of music, which is a branch of Sama Veda. The Sama Veda was chanted with the help of melody and rhythm called Samgana. Gradually this developed into other vocal styles called ‘Chhanda’ and ‘Prabandha’ with introduction of verse and meter. The fusion of these two elements led to the emergence of Dhrupad.

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The birth of Dhrupad as we know it today coincided with the Bhakti movement (particularly that of the Vallabh Sampradaya) and consequently was more devotional in nature. It was rendered in temples facing the Divinity full of devotion and Bhaav, this was the genesis of what became known as Haveli Dhrupad/Sangeet.

Statement 2 and 3 both are correct. Dhrupad is primarily a spiritual and devotional music and it uses Sanskrit syllables from mantras.

Dhrupad is the oldest surviving classical style of Hindustani (or North Indian) vocal music. Origin of Dhrupad can be traced to the Vedas.

Source: UPSC 2012

Q.32) With reference to the Sangeet Natak Academy, consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Culture.
 2. It offers financial support to institutions engaged in training in the fields of music, dance and drama.
 3. It grants an award known as 'Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar' in the fields of music, dance and drama.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Sangeet Natak Akademi, the apex body in the field of performing arts in the country, was set up in 1953. It is India's national academy for music, dance and drama.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Though Sangeeth Natak academy is an **autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, it is not a statutory body.** It was created by a resolution of the Government of India with Dr P.V. Rajamannar as its first Chairman.

Statement 2 is correct: The Academy formulated the **scheme of Financial Assistance to Cultural Institutions** to promote arts in India. The scheme's aim is to **provide financial support to institutions engaged in training in the fields of music, dance drama, etc.** and to encourage production of **new plays and ballets, etc.**

Statement 3 is correct: Young outstanding practitioners up to the **age of 40 years will be eligible** to be considered for the **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar** award. The Sangeet Natak Akademi instituted this award since 2006 to recognise **talent in the fields of music, dance and drama.**

Source: <https://www.sangeetnatak.gov.in/grants-institutions>

<https://www.sangeetnatak.gov.in/award-honours/yuva-puruskar>

Nitin Singhania- Chapter 5.32 Indian music

Q.33) "This folk music is practised in Nagaland region of North-eastern India. The songs related to this music are generally known as 'Songs about self'. It has two types. The first type of songs is composed and sung by the old people of Nagaland to glorify the deeds of their youthful days. The second type of the songs are created and sung by both the young and old generations which includes various aspects of life experiences related to both the generations."

Which of the following folk music is best described in the above given paragraph?

- a) Hekialeu
- b) Khongjom Parva
- c) Bhakha
- d) Bihu

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Folk music is the music of the common people, as opposed to the established classical music. It began as a traditional genre, associated with the folklore of the region

Option a is correct: The Hekialeu folk music is practised in Nagaland region of North-eastern India. The songs related to this music are generally known as 'Songs about self.' The **Hekialeu has two variations**. While one type of **Hekialeu is sung only by the old people** of Nagaland state, the other one is sung by **both the old and young generation** of the state. Hekialeu song of old people in Nagaland involves the description of interesting events that took place in their youthful days. The second type of the songs are created and sung by both the young and old generations which includes various aspects of life experiences related to both the generations.

Option b is incorrect: **Khongjom Parva is a folk music from the state of Manipur**. It is a popular ballad genre which is a musical narration of the **battle of Khongjom fought** between the British army and the Manipuri resistance forces in 1891.

Option c is incorrect: The **Bhakha folk music** is popular in the **Jammu region**. Bhakha is sung by the **villagers when harvesting is done**. It is the regional music with most melodic and harmonious elements. It is sung to the accompaniment of instruments like **harmonium**.

Option d is incorrect: **Bihu songs** are the most distinctive type of **folk songs of Assam**. **Bihu songs are blessings for a happy new year and the dance is associated with an ancient fertility cult**. It is Bihu time when an opportunity is there for marriageable young men and women to exchange their feelings and even to choose their partners.

Source: <https://www.mapsofindia.com/nagaland/society-and-culture/music.html>

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[https://books.google.co.in/books?id=uLfE8HGwdIMC&pg=PA248&lpg=PA248&dq=hekialeu+or+songs+about+self&source=bl&ots=OMmSOVcJtQ&sig=ACfU3U1sbYmVdUPxF_wnZzVhX377UKBmgQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjP9qVruf8AhWaCLcAHc8-](https://books.google.co.in/books?id=uLfE8HGwdIMC&pg=PA248&lpg=PA248&dq=hekialeu+or+songs+about+self&source=bl&ots=OMmSOVcJtQ&sig=ACfU3U1sbYmVdUPxF_wnZzVhX377UKBmgQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjP9qVruf8AhWaCLcAHc8-CogQ6AF6BagoEAM#v=onepage&q=hekialeu%20or%20songs%20about%20self&f=false)

[CogQ6AF6BagoEAM#v=onepage&q=hekialeu%20or%20songs%20about%20self&f=false](https://books.google.co.in/books?id=uLfE8HGwdIMC&pg=PA248&lpg=PA248&dq=hekialeu+or+songs+about+self&source=bl&ots=OMmSOVcJtQ&sig=ACfU3U1sbYmVdUPxF_wnZzVhX377UKBmgQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjP9qVruf8AhWaCLcAHc8-CogQ6AF6BagoEAM#v=onepage&q=hekialeu%20or%20songs%20about%20self&f=false)

Q.34) With reference to National Gopal Ratna Award, consider the following statements:

1. It is the highest National Award given to young children for their contribution in the field of science & technology.
2. The award is given by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) has started National Gopal Ratna Award during 2022 under three categories. It was conferred on the occasion of National Milk Day (26th Nov, 2022).

Statement 1 is incorrect. National Gopal Ratna Award is one of the highest National Awards in the **field of livestock and dairy sector**. The Award is given in three categories- Best Dairy Farmer Rearing Indigenous Cattle and buffalo Breeds, Best Artificial Insemination Technician and Best Dairy Cooperative, Milk Producer Company, Dairy Farmer Producer Organization.

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Statement 2 is incorrect. The National Gopal Ratna Award is given to selected persons by the **Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India** for their excellent work in animal husbandry and livestock development.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1854108>

<https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=Fisheries%2C-Animal-Husbandry-and-Dairying-Ministry-announces-National-Gopal-Ratna-Awards-2022&id=451284>

Q.35) With reference to Prime Minister SVANidhi scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme is fully funded by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
2. Possession of identity cards issued by Urban Local bodies is mandatory to avail benefits under this scheme.
3. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) fixes the interest rate for loans disbursed by all financial institutions under this scheme.
4. The scheme offers collateral free loans to Urban Street Vendors.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 3 and 4 only
- c) 1 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** was launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** and this scheme targets to benefit over 50 lakh Street Vendors.

Statement 1 is correct: The scheme is a **Central Sector Scheme i.e., fully funded by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**. The scheme aims to open up new opportunities to this street vendor and enable them to move up the economic ladder.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Possession of identity card issued by ULBs is not mandatory to avail benefits under this scheme. The Scheme is available even to those who have been **identified in the survey but have not been issued Certificate of Vending / Identity Card**.

Statement 3 is incorrect: RBI does not regulate the interest rate for Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Small Finance Banks (SFBs), Cooperative Banks SHG Banks. For them the rates will be as per their **prevailing rates of interest**. On the other hand, the **RBI regulates the interest rate** of loans disbursed by Non-Banking Financial Companies (**NBFCs**), NBFC-Microfinance Institutions (**NBFC-MFIs**), under this scheme.

Statement 4 is correct: The scheme provides Collateral free loan for street vendors. Working Capital (WC) loans of up to 10,000rs with tenure of 1 year will be given to street vendors without demanding any collaterals from borrowers. On timely or early repayment, the vendors will be eligible for the next cycle of working capital loan with an enhanced limit.

Source: <https://pmsvanidhi.mohua.gov.in/Home/Schemes>

[https://nmeo.dac.gov.in/aboutus.aspx#:~:text=National%20Mission%20on%20Edible%20Oils%20\(NMEO\)%20Department%20of%20Agriculture%20%26,Government%20of%20India](https://nmeo.dac.gov.in/aboutus.aspx#:~:text=National%20Mission%20on%20Edible%20Oils%20(NMEO)%20Department%20of%20Agriculture%20%26,Government%20of%20India)

Q.36) With reference to the folk-dance traditions of India, consider the following pairs:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Folk dance | - Region |
| 1. Oyilattam | - Tamil Nādu |
| 2. Koli | - Odisha |

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3. Changsang - Nagaland
4. Dalkhai - Maharashtra

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- a) only one pair
b) only two pairs
c) only three pairs
d) All four pairs

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Unlike Classical dances, the folk-dance forms are generally spontaneous, **crude and performed by the masses without any formal training.**

Pair 1 is correct: Oyilattam is a folk dance with origins in the Madurai region of Tamil Nadu. The dance has its origins in southern regions of Tamil Nadu. The dance involves persons standing in a row and performing rhythmic steps with coloured kerchiefs in the hand. Thavil is a musical instrument used in this art.

Pair 2 is incorrect: Koli is a popular folk dance of Maharashtra and Goa. It reflects the rhythm of the sea waves.

Pair 3 is correct: Changsang is traditional folk dance performed by the Chang Naga tribe of Nagaland. It's performed in **praise of the birthplace of mankind and earth.** It is performed in the month of July during naknyulum festival.

Pair 4 is incorrect: Dalkhai is a folk dance performed in Odisha. It was mostly performed during the festival of Dussehra in Odisha. It was performed by the **Binjhal, Kuda, Mirdha, Sama and other tribes of Western Odisha.** Musical instruments used are **Dhol, nishan, muhuri, tamki, and tasa.** Events from Ramayana and Mahabharata, stories of Lord Krishna, etc are main themes of this dance.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/mamallapuram-dance-fest-gets-under-way/article38024261.ece>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1883235>

Q.37) With reference to Buddhist and Jain literature, consider the following statements:

1. Visuddhimagga is a treatise on Theravada doctrine.
2. Buddhist text Abhidharmamoksha is written in Sanskrit language.
3. Kalpa Sutra contains the biographies of Jain Tirthankars.
4. Jain literature is mostly written in Pali.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 4 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

During the post-Vedic period, Buddhist and Jain literature gained prominence as they were mostly written in language spoken by people. Buddhist literature is written in Pali language and can be divided into canonical and non-canonical work. Jain literature can also be divided into two categories; Canonical or religious texts called Jain Agamas or Agam and non-canonical literary works.

Statement 1 is correct: Visuddhimagga is a text on Theravada doctrine. It is written by Buddhaghosh. 'Visuddhimagga' means 'The way of purification'. It contains discussion on various teachings of Buddha.

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Statement 2 is correct: Abhidharmamoksha is written in Sanskrit. It has been authored by Vasubandhu and is widely respected text. It contains discussion on Abhidharma.

Statement 3 is correct: Kalpa Sutra contains **biographies of Jain Tirthankars , written by Bhadrabahu (3rd century BC)**. Kalpasutra mentions nine Ganas and 11 Ganadharas of Mahavira. Bhadrabahu is mentioned as prime Ganadhara of Mahavira. Bhadrabahu was the pioneer of the Digambara sect. He also wrote the sacred Uvasaggaharam Stotra.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Jain literature is written in **Prakrit and Ardha Magadhi**. Jain monks wrote in many other languages depending on the era, region and the patrons who supported them. They wrote in Tamil during the Sangam Age in south India. They also wrote in Sanskrit, Shauraseni, Gujarati, and Marathi.
Source: Nitin Singhania, Indian literature

Q.38) With reference to Akbarnama, consider the following statements:

1. It was written by Ustad Mansur on the order of Akbar's son Jahangir.
2. It mentions the Akbar's differences with Muslim orthodoxy.
3. It was originally written in Persian language.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 2 and 3 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Akbarnama is the official chronicle of the reign of Akbar, (1556–1605). It was commissioned by Akbar himself and written by his court historian and biographer, Abul Fazl.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Akbarnama, which translates to Book of Akbar, was the official chronicle of the reign of Akbar, the third Mughal Emperor. It was commissioned by Akbar himself and written by his court historian and biographer, Abu'l-Fazl.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Abul Fazal avoided writing controversial issues related to Akbar's reign in Akbarnama. **Hence, he did not mention Akbar's differences with the Muslim orthodoxy in Akbarnama.** Abdul Qadir Badauni accounts the religious discussions held in Akbar's Ibadat Khana. He recorded the origin of Akbar's differences with the Muslim orthodoxy that led to religious controversies in his book.

Statement 3 is correct: Akbarnama was written in Persian language. It was the literary language of the Mughal court.

Knowledge Base: Akbarnama contains three volumes:

- 1) The first volume of Akbarnama deals with the birth of Akbar, the history of Timur's family and the reigns of Babur and Humayun and the Suri sultans of Delhi.
- 2) The second volume describes the detailed history of the reign of Akbar till 1602 and records the events during Akbar's reign.
- 3) The third volume, called the Ain-i-Akbari, describes the administrative system of the Empire.

Source: <https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/44446/1/Unit-10.pdf>

Q.39) With reference to Classical languages of India, consider the following statements:

1. The criteria for declaring classical language includes high antiquity of its texts over a period of 1500–2000 years.
2. Odia is included in the category of classical languages.
3. Only Parliament can accord the classical language status to any Indian language.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 3 only

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

In 2004, the government of India undertook an initiative to grant classical language status to languages. At present, six languages namely Tamil, Sanskrit, Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada and Odia have been given classical language status.

Statement 1 is correct: According to the Ministry of Culture, the guidelines for declaring a language as 'Classical' are:

- (1) **High antiquity of its recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years.**
- (2) A body of ancient literature which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers
- (3) The literary tradition be original and not borrowed extensively from any other language.
- (4) The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

Statement 2 is correct: Odia is the sixth Indian language to be designated a classical language in 2014.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Only Central government decides on the status of classical language. In 2004 it was decided by the Indian Government to proclaim Indian Languages meeting certain requirements as Classical Language.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-how-is-a-language-declared-classical-in-india-what-benefits-it-enjoys-6216415/>

Q.40) With reference to the Government schemes, consider the following pairs:

Schemes	Features
1. Shrestha scheme	Residential school for Scheduled Tribes
2. PACER scheme	To promote scientific research in Polar areas.
3. PM Employment Generation Programme	All individuals above 18 years of age are eligible under this scheme.
4. Design Linked Incentive Scheme	To promote semiconductor production in the country

How many pairs above are correctly matched?

- a) only one pair
- b) only two pairs
- c) only three pairs
- d) All four pairs

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect: SHRESHTA (Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas) provides seats for the meritorious students belonging to Schedules Caste (SC) boys and girls (not for

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Scheduled tribes) in the best **private residential schools** in the country. Every year, it is expected that about (3000) students would be selected for admission in Class 9 and Class 11 under this scheme.

Pair 2 is correct: Polar Science and Cryosphere Research (**PACER**) is being implemented by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**. It has **four sub- schemes** under it, namely, the Antarctic Program, Indian Arctic Program, Indian Southern Ocean Program and Cryosphere and Climate Program. The scheme aims to ensure the **country's strategic and scientific interests in the Polar Region and the surrounding oceans**.

Pair 3 is correct: Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (**PMEGP**) is being implemented by **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)**. **Only new projects are considered for sanction under PMEGP**. Any individual, **above 18 years of age** can apply for this scheme. At least VIII standard pass for projects costing above **Rs.10 lakh in the manufacturing sector and above Rs. 5 lakhs in the business / service sector**.

Pair 4 is correct: **Ministry of Electronics and Information technology** announced the **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme**. The scheme **aims to promote semiconductor production in the country** by offering **financial incentives as well as design infrastructure support** across various stages of development and deployment of semiconductor design. **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC)** is a nodal agency of this scheme and CDAC is an **autonomous scientific society** operating under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Source: <https://shreshta.nta.nic.in/>

https://moes.gov.in/schemes/polar-science-cryosphere?language_content_entity=en

<https://msme.gov.in/1-prime-ministers-employment-generation-programme-pmegp>

<https://chips-dli.gov.in/DLI/HomePage>

<https://shreshta.nta.nic.in/about-shreshta/>

Q.41) With reference to culture history of India, consider the following statements:

1. Most of the Tyagaraja Kritis are devotional songs in praise of Lord Krishna.
2. Tyagaraja created several new ragas.
3. Annamacharya and Tyagaraja are contemporaries.
4. Annamacharya kirtnas are devotional songs in praise of Lord Venkateshwara.

Which of the statement is given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) 2, 3 and 4

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Tyagaraja composed thousands of devotional compositions in praise of Lord Ram, not Lord Krishna.

Statement 2 is correct. Tyagaraja adopted composing in new ragas as one of the aims of his musical career. The (approximately) 700 known kritis of Tyagaraja feature 212 ragas; 121 of these ragas have only one kriti in them. He was the first to compose kritis in "about 66 ragas". His enthusiasm for such ragas can be seen from the fact that even among the last few kritis that he is believed to have composed, three are in new ragas: Vagadeeswari (paramatmudu), Ganavaridhi (daya juchutakidira) and Manohari (paritapamu ganiyadina).

Statement 3 is incorrect. Annamacharya was a 15th Century Hindu saint, he composed songs in praise of Lord Venkateshwara. Tyagaraja was born in 1767.

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Statement 4 is correct. Annamacharya composed 32,000 keertanas (devotional songs) in praise of Lord Venkateswara.

Source: UPSC 2018

Q.42) With reference to Vedangas, consider the following statements:

1. Nirukta Vedanga consists of explanations for usage of various Vedic terms.
2. Kalpa Vedanga contains procedural codes to perform Vedic sacrifices.
3. Chanda Vedanga deals with grammar of Vedic language.
4. Siksa Vedanga establishes rules for correct chanting of Vedic hymns.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Vedic literature consists of auxiliary texts known as Vedangas (limbs of the Vedas). They are designed to help in the correct pronunciation of the terms, right interpretation of texts, and employment of the proper mantras during the course of sacrifices, rituals, and ceremonies. The Vedangas are six in number namely Siksha, Chhanda, Vyakarana, Nirukta, Jyotisha and Kalpa.

Statement 1 is correct: Nirukta provides the reasons for usage of the Vedic terms particularly those that are archaic and have ancient uses with unclear meaning. This auxiliary discipline has focused on linguistic analysis to help establish the proper meaning of the words.

Statement 2 is correct. Kalpa Vedanga contains procedural codes of the performance of sacrifices. Kalpas are in the form of sutras (a sutra is a distinctive feature of spiritual and philosophical composition). Hence, this field focused on standardizing procedures for Vedic rituals, rites of passage rituals associated with major life events such as birth, wedding and death in family, as well as discussing the personal conduct and proper duties of an individual in different stages of his life.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Chandas deals with science of prosody. Meaning it deals with poetic **rythms** or rhythmic patterns of Vedic hymns. Hence, this discipline has focused on the rhythmic structures. **Vyakarana Vedanga** lays down the grammar of the Vedic language.

Statement 4 is correct: Siksa Vedanga deals with the science of proper articulation and pronunciation of varnas (letters) and words. **It lays down the rules for the correct chanting of Vedic hymns.**

Knowledge Base:

Source: <https://www.egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/35235/1/Unit-1.pdf>

<https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/37928/1/Unit-2.pdf>

Q.43) With reference to Indian literature, consider the following statements:

1. Value of pi (π) is given in the book Sulbasutra.
2. Charak Samhita deals with the use of medicinal plants and herbs.
3. Brihat Samhita mentions the relation of earthquake with undersea activities.
4. Yukti Kalpa Taru lays down various techniques used in ship building.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 4 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Various Indian literature has been composed throughout the ages in ancient and Medieval India which deals with development of science, astrology, mathematics etc. hence, India carries a rich legacy of scientific ideas.

Statement 1 is correct: The earliest book on mathematics was **Sulbasutra** written by **Baudhayana in the 6th century B.C.** It contains various significant mathematical formulae. It includes the **value of pi (π) to a considerable degree of precision** and a concept similar to Pythagoras Theorem. The sequences associated with primitive Pythagorean triples were named Baudhayana sequences.

Statement 2 is correct: **Charak Samhita** mainly deals with **use of medicinal plants and herbs**. Hence, mainly dealing with Ayurveda. In Charak Samhita, extensive note on digestion, metabolism and immune system is written. His book has more emphasis on prevention rather than cure.

Statement 3 is correct: **Brihat Samhita** was written by Varahamihira. He has propounded the earth cloud theory. **He related earthquake to the influence of plants, behaviour of animals, underground water, undersea activities and the unusual cloud formation.** He also made contributions in Astrology or Jyotish shastra. Varahamihira lived in the Gupta period and was among the nine gems in the court of Vikramaditya.

Statement 4 is correct: **Yukti Kalpa Taru** is a treatise in Sanskrit which deals with the various **techniques used in ship building** during ancient times.

Source: <https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/67726/1/Unit-16.pdf>

Nitin Singhania, Science and Technology through the ages.

Q.44) Arrange the following gallantry awards in India in the correct order of precedence.

1. Param Vir Chakra
2. Shaurya Chakra
3. Mahavir Chakra
4. Vir Chakra

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

- a) 1-3-4-2
- b) 3-1-2-4
- c) 1-3-2-4
- d) 4-1-3-2

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The correct Order of precedence of the gallantry awards are the Param Vir Chakra, the Ashoka Chakra, the Mahavir Chakra, the Kirti Chakra, the Vir Chakra and the Shaurya Chakra.

Gallantry Awards are instituted by the Government of India to honour the acts of bravery and sacrifice of the officers/personnel of the **Armed Forces, other lawfully constituted Forces and civilians**. These gallantry awards are **announced twice in a year** - first on the occasion of the **Republic Day** and then on the occasion of the **Independence Day**.

Gallantry Awards are classified into two Categories-Gallantry in the Face of Enemy, and Gallantry Other than in the Face of Enemy

First Category of Gallantry Awards Comprises of the following Awards-

- 1) Param Vir Chakra (PVC)
- 2) Mahavir Chakra (MVC)
- 3) Vir Chakra

Second Category of Gallantry Awards Comprises of the following Awards-

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- 1) Ashok Chakra
- 2) Kirti Chakra
- 3) Shaurya Chakra

Source:

<https://www.gallantryawards.gov.in/about#:~:text=These%20gallantry%20awards%20are%20announce d,Chakra%20and%20the%20Shaurya%20Chakra.>

<https://vikaspedia.in/education/childrens-corner/gallantry-awards>

Q.45) With reference to Revamped Distribution Sector Reform Scheme (RDSS), consider the following statements:

1. The scheme is introduced as a sub-scheme under Integrated Power Development Scheme.
2. The scheme provides for annual appraisal of performance of power distribution companies (DISCOMs).
3. Under the scheme, agricultural connections would be covered only through Feeder Meters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) aims at improving the operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of DISCOMs. The Scheme is a grant-based programme. The Scheme would be available till the year 2025-26

Statement 1 is incorrect: RDSS will be introduced as an umbrella scheme merging all the existing power sector reforms. Schemes like Integrated Power Development Scheme, DDU Gram Jyoti Yojana, and Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana will be merged in this scheme. **Hence the statement is incorrect** as RDSS is not a sub-scheme under Integrated Power Development Scheme.

Statement 2 is correct: The Scheme provides for **annual appraisal of the DISCOM performance** against predefined criteria of AT&C losses, infrastructure upgrade performance, consumer services, hours of supply, etc. DISCOMs must score a minimum of 60% of marks and clear a minimum bar in respect to certain parameters to be able to be eligible for funding against the Scheme in that year.

Statement 3 is correct: Under the scheme, agricultural connections would be covered only through Feeder Meters. The feeder meter is connected to segregated feeder lines. **It helps to improve load pattern in case of agricultural loads.** As through segregated feeder, power supply to agriculture is controlled. It fulfils the requirement of a daily six-to-eight-hour reliable supply, depending on the season. It also decreases the burden of high rated power purchase during the peak hours of DISCOMs. This feature was included due to the scattered nature of agricultural connections and their remoteness from the habitations.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1731473>

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/interviews/separate-power-feeders-can-greatly-improve-rural-electrification-42382>

Q.46) With reference to the comparisons between the art forms of Sattriya and Manipuri, consider the following statements:

1. While Sattriya has components of storytelling, Manipuri is more focused on rhythmic dance moves.
2. The themes of both Sattriya and Manipuri are influenced by Vaishnavism.
3. While Nagabhandha is a characteristic feature of Sattriya, it is absent in Manipuri.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

India has a rich cultural heritage with a tradition in dance, drama and music going back to over two millennia. In modern times, there are 8 types of classical dances that are recognized in India. Two of them are - Manipuri and Sattriya, both from the North Eastern region. They were both developed especially during the Bhakti period of 16-17th centuries CE.



Manipuri Dance



Sattriya Dance

Statement 1 is correct: Sattriya is a classical dance introduced by Bhakti saint Sri Sankaradeva, as an accompaniment to the Ankiya Nat (one act plays) **depicting incidents from Lord Krishna's life**. So, it includes features like songs, music and dance as well as gestures and **postures to explain the narration (story telling)**. This is because the main aim of these performances was to inspire people to lead moral lives by **narrating didactic mythological incidents** to people in an easy-to-understand manner.

On the other hand, Manipuri is a dance that has components of **both Tandava & its feminine counterpart, the Lasya, with a heavier focus on the latter**. Manipuri involves very **fluid and light footwork**, wherein there is no thumping or hard contact between the dancers' feet and the ground (unlike Odissi) and there is very little to no dramatic components or narration. The focus is on light airy dance movements. Hence this statement is correct.

Statement 2 is correct: Sattriya was a dance form introduced by the 15th century Vaishnavite saint, Sri Sankaradeva. The **main themes** of this dance form were taken from mythological stories, especially the incidents from the life of **Lord Krishna** (an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, hence related to **Vaishnavism**). On the other hand, though the mythological origins of Manipuri dance were believed to have been the Tandava and Lasya performed by Lord Shiva and his consort, Goddess Parvati as well as the Gandharvas, in the valleys of Manipur, in modern times, the themes of **Manipuri dance** especially **include** the Raas Leela stories from **Lord Krishna's (Vishnu's incarnation)** life. Hence this statement is correct as the themes of both the dance forms are centred on the Vaishnavite Bhakti tradition.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Nagabhandha refers to a mudra (posture) which is a characteristic **feature of the Manipuri classical dance**. In this posture, the body is connected through curves in the shape of figure '8'.

Source: Indian Art & Culture by Nitin Singhania, 5th edition, Ch-6, Pg-6.9, 6.10, 6.12, 6.13;

<https://indianculture.gov.in/research-papers/comparitive-study-two-vaishnavism-influenced-classical-dance-form-sattriya-and> ;

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<http://www.assaminfo.com/culture/5/sattriya-nritya-beautiful-classic-dance-of-assam.htm>
<http://ccrtindia.gov.in/manipuri-dance/>
<http://ccrtindia.gov.in/sattriya-dance/>
<http://ccrtindia.gov.in/manipuri-dance/>

Q.47) The terms 'Suladi, Svarajati and Javali' are generally used in the context of:

- a) musical forms or compositions in Carnatic music.
- b) names of folk dances of India.
- c) instruments used in Hindustani music.
- d) names of Gharanas in Indian tradition of classical music.

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Suladi, Svarajati, and Javali are musical forms or compositions in Carnatic music.

Suladi

The Suladis are of a higher standard than the gitam (the simplest type of composition). The Suladi is a talamalika, the sections being in different talas. The theme is devotional. Purandaradasa has composed many Suladis.

Svarajati

This is learnt after a course in gitams. The theme is either devotional, heroic or amorous. It originated as a dance form with jatis. But later, Syama Sastri, one among the Musical Trinity, composed svarajatis without jatis, which are brilliant concert pieces, noted for their musical value.

Javali

A javali is a composition belonging to the sphere of light classical music. Sung both in concert programmes and dance concerts, the javalis are popular because of the attractive melodies in which they are composed. This form resembles the Thumris of Hindustani Music.

Source: <http://ccrtindia.gov.in/carnaticclassicalmusic.php>

Q.48) With reference to Smriti literature, consider the following statements:

1. Manusmriti is the oldest literary work among the smriti texts.
2. As per Narada smriti, the immovable property should be part of women's 'stridhan'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Smriti literature represent what was recorded by the sages in their own words of what they heard from the deity. The early smritis were termed as dharma sutras. The principles of law are mostly covered under this part.

Statement 1 is correct: Manusmriti is the oldest smriti work. In this smriti, Manu recognizes the divine power of the kings to enforce law through danda or punishment. He gave importance to custom as a source of dharma. In his writings, he was harsh towards women and sudras.

Statement 2 is correct: Smritikars has provided for the woman's separate property and distinct and separate rules for its succession. Later, Narada smriti expanded the scope of stridhana which also included

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immovable property obtained by both a married woman or a maiden in the house of her husband or the father (saudayika).

Knowledge Base:

The rights of most Hindu women were governed by the Mitakshara or Dayabhaga systems of law. The smritikars assigned a special category of property to women they termed as stridhana.

- 1) Under the Dayabhaga system, stridhana was restricted to gifts and movables.
- 2) Under the Mitakshara School, various Smritikars starting from Gautam Dharmasutra to Manu and Vishnu provided for the woman's separate property and distinct and separate rules for its succession

Source: <https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/25921/1/Unit-15.pdf>

<https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/9914/1/Unit-13.pdf>

Q.49) With reference to Muthuswami Dikshitar - an exponent of the South Indian Carnatic music, consider the following statements:

1. He is one of the members of the famous trinity of Carnatic music.
2. His compositions are noted for their elaborate and poetic descriptions of Hindu gods and temples.
3. All of his compositions are written only in the Kannada language.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Muthuswami Dikshitar was an exponent of the South Indian Carnatic music genre.

Statement 1 is correct.

The Trinity of Carnatic music, also known as The Three Jewels of Carnatic music, refer to the outstanding trio of composer-musicians of Carnatic music in the 18th century. **It consists of Saint Tyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar and Syama Sastri.**

Statement 2 is correct.

His compositions are noted for their elaborate and poetic descriptions of Hindu gods and temples. And for capturing the essence of the raga forms through the vainika (veena) style that emphasises gamakas. He emphasised on use of Gamaka (ornamentation). His signature name was Guru- guha which is also his mudra. He was also a Veena player.

Statement 3 is incorrect.

His compositions are predominantly in Sanskrit and he has also composed some of his Kritis in Manipravalam (a mixture of Sanskrit and Tamil).

Most compositions are in Sanskrit and relates to Hindu gods and temples.

Source: Art and Culture Nitin Singhaniya

<https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/music/knowning-the-real-dikshitar/article33423041.ece>

Q.50) “This scheme was launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The scheme aims to support children through Non-Institutional Care and it also tries to rope in private assistance to uplift the children's welfare. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 provides the basic framework for implementation of this Mission.”

Which of the following is referred to in the above given paragraph?

- a) Swadhar Greh.
- b) Samarthya scheme.

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- c) Mission Vatsalya.
d) KanyaShree Prakalpa

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Option a is incorrect: The Ministry of Women and Child Development implements Swadhar Greh Scheme. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme **for women** who are victims of difficult circumstances. The scheme provides women with **institutional support for rehabilitation** so that they could lead their life with dignity.

Option b is incorrect: Samarthya scheme is a sub scheme of Mission Shakti of **Ministry of Women and Child Development**. The objective of the scheme is to **empower women**.

Option c is correct: Mission Vatsalya is the scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The scheme supports the children through **Non-Institutional Care** and they **try to rope in private assistance** from the public to provide assistance to children in difficult circumstances. Provisions of **the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012** along with The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 **provides the basic framework** for implementation of the Mission.

Option d is incorrect: Kanyashree Prakalpa is a West Bengal government initiative that seeks to improve the **status and wellbeing of girls**, especially girls belonging to socio-economically disadvantaged families through **Conditional Cash Transfers**. The scheme aims to incentivize girls to continue in education for a longer period of time thereby **disincentivizing marriage till at least the age of 18**.

Source: <https://vikaspedia.in/social-welfare/women-and-child-development/ministry-of-women-and-child-development#:~:text=Swadhar%20Greh,The%20Swadhar%20Greh>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1848645>

<https://vikaspedia.in/social-welfare/women-and-child-development/child-development-1/girl-child-welfare/state-wise-schemes-for-girl-child-welfare/west-bengal-kanyashree-prakalpa>